

REMARKS

Applicant's representative would like to thank Examiner Vu for the courtesies extended during a telephonic interview on October 13, 2004. During the interview, the Examiner clarified the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 102 as it pertains to independent Claims 36, 44, and 52. Specifically, the Examiner identified drive pin 120 of Ryan (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,330) as the "blocking pin" referred to under the § 102 rejection of independent Claims 36, 44, and 52. Applicant's representative asserted that Ryan fails to teach a slide pin and that the drive pin of Ryan is not akin to the slide pin of the claimed invention. The Examiner agreed.

Applicant's representative also asserted that the Ryan reference fails to teach a drive shaft operable to move a slide pin from a locked position to an unlocked position to allow rotation of an arm relative to a support. The drive shaft 106 of Ryan moves an index gear 90 into meshed engagement with teeth 104 of a sector gear 92 *prior* to releasing a locking pawl 32 from a locked position. See Ryan at Col. 7, Ins. 8-31. Therefore, the drive shaft of Ryan moves into engagement with teeth 104 while the locking pawl 32 is still in a locked position. The Examiner agreed.

Claims 36-56 are now pending in the application. The following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 36-40, 43-44 and 47-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ryan (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,330). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Because Ryan fails to teach a slide pin, and further, because Ryan fails to teach a drive shaft operable to move a slide pin from a locked position to an unlocked position, thereby allowing rotation of an arm relative to a support, Applicant respectfully submits that Ryan fails to teach each and every element of the present invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 36, 44, and 52, as well as Claims 37-40, 43, 47-51, and 53-56, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 41-42 and 45-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,330) in view of Weston et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,402,547). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 36 and 44 are believed to be in condition for allowance in light of the remarks contained above. Because Claims 41-42 and 45-46 respectively depend from independent Claims 36 and 44, dependant Claims 41-42 and 45-46 should similarly be in a condition for allowance for at least the same reasons. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

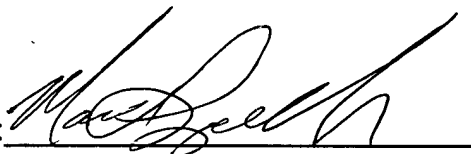
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Dated: 10-14-04

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